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Letter dated 14 June 2011 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I have the honour to convey to you the attached letter dated 7 June 2011 from the Deputy Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Mr. Claudio Bisogniero, transmitting the report on the international security presence in Kosovo for the period 1 January to 31 March 2011 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

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Annex

Report to the United Nations on the operations of the Kosovo Force

[Original: English]

Introduction

1. The present report is pursuant to the Kosovo Force (KFOR) reporting requirement under Security Council resolution 1244 (1999). The report covers the period from 1 January to 31 March 2011.

2. As at 31 March, the total number of KFOR troops in theatre stood at 7,300. This number included 1,150 from non-NATO countries.

Security situation and operations

3. The situation in Kosovo remained generally calm throughout the reporting period, which was nevertheless marked by significant political events that demonstrated again the ability of the Kosovo authorities to deal with political and legal challenges, such as the peaceful re-run of elections in five municipalities in January 2011, the constitutive session of the new Assembly on 21 February 2011 and the appointment of a new leadership on 22 February, as well as the constitutional court ruling on 30 March. During the reporting period, KFOR continued operations to maintain a safe and secure environment and freedom of movement. KFOR conducted operations as a third responder in northern Kosovo in support of the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX) and the Kosovo Police.

4. KFOR also continued the successful process of handing over the guarding of properties with designated special status to the police.

5. Following the Central Election Commission decision to re-run elections in five municipalities on 9 January and in Mitrovica on 22 January, KFOR, in close coordination with EULEX and the police, set up a security concept maintaining a low profile and a high readiness state to respond to requests for assistance. No official requests for assistance were made to KFOR.

6. On 17 January, KFOR formalized the handover of 66 kilometres of border responsibility along the border with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia[1] to the Kosovo Border and Boundary Police. The second border section of 70 kilometres was handed over on 19 March, and KFOR seeks to hand over the final section in June 2011.

7. On 18 February, the Supreme Allied Commander Europe, Admiral Stavridis, visited Kosovo where he met with the KFOR Commander, Major General Bühler and the EULEX Head of Mission, Xavier de Marnhac. Visits were conducted to the Devic monastery and Mitrovica.

[1] Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.

8. On 1 March, KFOR successfully implemented "Gate 2" or the second phase of Deterrent Presence, thereby reorganizing its forces into two multinational battle groups, a strong tactical reserve, and five joint regional detachments. During the transition process, troops and camp numbers have been reduced significantly while KFOR continued to maintain a safe and secure environment and freedom of movement.

9. On 7 April 2011, a high-level Joint Implementation Commission meeting took place between the KFOR Commander and the Serbian Chief of Defence, Lieutenant General Miletic. Both commanders discussed mutual relations and the security situation astride the boundary between Kosovo and Serbia. The KFOR Commander assessed that cooperation with Serbian Armed Forces continues at an excellent level with no outstanding issues. On 16 March, the KFOR Commander visited Montenegro in the context of a high-level Joint Implementation Commission meeting where he was received by the Montenegro Chief of Defence and the Defence Minister of Montenegro, Boro Vucinic, with whom he discussed the impending unfixing of the border with Montenegro.

NATO new tasks

10. The Kosovo Security Force has enhanced its main operational performance but still needs to develop its supporting tasks. The force has approximately 2,200 active members, 8 per cent of which are ethnic minorities, and 4.7 per cent of which are female.

11. During the reporting period, the Kosovo Security Force planned and executed several projects and conducted regular and bilateral training programmes. Of note, on 10 January, fire fighters from the Kosovo Security Force began a three-week basic training course at KFOR headquarters.

12. The Kosovo Security Force is facing a lack of advanced training in some capabilities, including search and rescue, fire fighting, hazardous materials and explosive ordinance disposal. On that basis, the Kosovo Security Force is eager to engage in cooperation with bilateral training partners to minimize the problem.

13. On 15 January, the Kosovo Security Force reserve component selection phase ended with a total of 151 selected candidates. The process went well, with some improvements on mobile recruitment teams.

14. On 21 January, the Kosovo Security Force active component recruitment campaign for 2011 started and recruitment applications were accepted from 14 February to 21 March. As a result, 4,565 applications have been submitted, of which 144 were from minorities[2] and 221 from females[3]. Basic training should start in June 2011.

15. On 29 March, a field exercise was conducted by Kosovo Security Force units to deliver training in mine clearance, search and rescue, nuclear chemical and biological defence and fire fighting operations. During the exercises, all members practised staff procedures, planning and decision-making in emergency situations of

[2] Comprising 42 Kosovo Serbs, 5 Kosovo Roma, 23 Kosovo Ashkali, 33 Kosovo Turks, 11 Kosovo Egyptians and 30 Kosovo Bosniaks.

[3] Comprising 214 Kosovo Albanians, 1 Kosovo Serb, 3 Kosovo Bosniaks, 2 Kosovo Turks and 1 Kosovo Egyptian.

various disasters. Training was focused on the actions of specialized response units, as well as their readiness to react to real-life situations, through several simulations.

16. Recently, KFOR headquarters reported that the Kosovo Protection Corps resettlement programme is expected to be closed by November 2011. Those members who belonged to the former Kosovo Protection Corps and are currently on duty within the Kosovo Security Force were provided with the opportunity to join the programme until 1 April 2011. At present, nearly 1,400 active Kosovo Security Force members are from the former Kosovo Protection Corps and their enlistment contracts expire in January 2012.

Summary

17. The overall security situation remained stable, despite the poor economic situation. KFOR implemented "Gate 2" of Deterrent Presence while contributing to a safe and secure environment and freedom of movement in Kosovo.